



THE KEYSTONE

1899

IDA MARSHALL LINING,
Editor.

MARY B. POPPENHEIM,
Associate Editor.

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A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED
TO WOMAN'S WORK.

CHARLESTON, S. C.

Official Organ for the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs.

Official Organ for the South Carolina Audubon Society.

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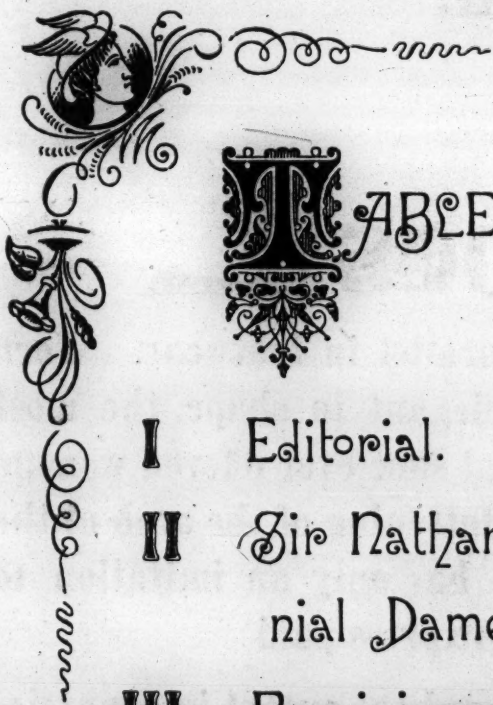


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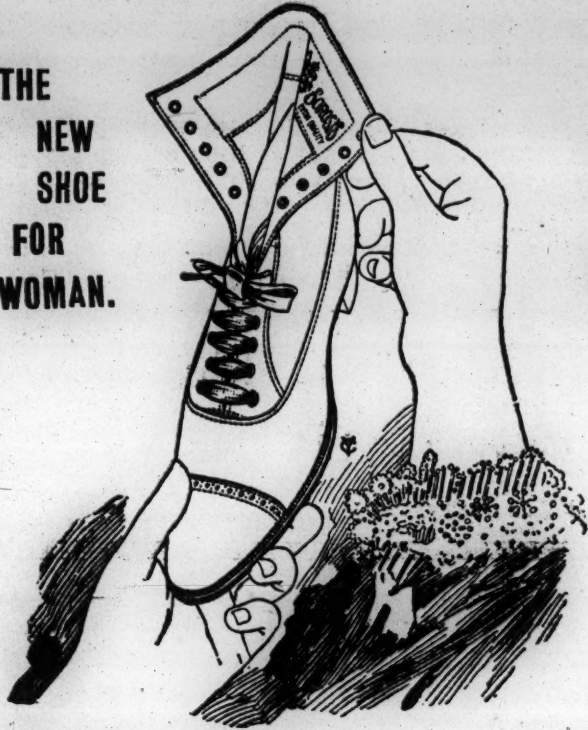
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Editorial.

The Circulation of the Keystone is 2000 copies monthly.

AMONG the attractive features of the April Keystone will be the following:

I. A Floating Studio, or The Houseboat Dragon, by The Dragon.

II. From Story Telling to Shakspeare, by Lucy S. Coleman, Richmond, Va.

THE Clover Club, of Beaufort, S. C., organized in 1892, has applied for membership in the S. C. Federation of Women's Clubs. The Keystone notices with pleasure that the club women of the low country are beginning to lend a hand in promoting the interest of club women in the State.

THE Intercollegiate College Club of South Carolina has joined the S. C. Federation of Women's Clubs. All graduates from the following Colleges—Vassar, Smith, Wellesley, Bryn Mawr, Radcliff Barnard, Woman's College of Baltimore, University of Toronto, and Ripon College, are eligible to membership in this club, and the Federation is to be congratulated on securing the aid of such valuable women in its work.

THE Southern Railroad has given the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs 12 cases for their Travelling Libraries. The women of South Carolina cannot fail to appreciate such hearty co-operation in their library extension work.

THE KEYSTONE calls attention to the following letter, and urges all persons who may be able to give the desired information, to send the same to this office, so that South Carolina may be duly represented in Mrs. Blandin's book.

Dear Madam:

I am trying to find the record of the schools for women in the South previous to the "War between the States." I am anxious to do something to show that the education of women was not neglected at the South. I would like to find the name of the schools, date of establishment, curriculum, date of charter, if one was granted, duration, and average number of pupils attending, and whether degrees were granted. Also the first President, and Board of Trustees. I desire to find the record of the very *oldest* schools in your State.

I know there was attention given to this subject, and am anxious to show the truth in the matter. Miss Dunnivant wishes me to bring the book out as soon as possible; she is interested in anything that will tend to throw light on the true condition of affairs at the South previous to the War between the States.

Hoping this may not greatly inconvenience you, I remain,
Yours sincerely,

MRS. I. M. E. BLANDIN.

THE Second Annual Convention of the S. C. Federation of Women's Clubs promises to be a brilliant gathering of the most prominent Club Women in the State.

The City Union of Women's Clubs of Charleston is completing its arrangements for the entertainment of this Convention, and the social features promised are most attractive.

The President of the Union has extended an invitation to Mrs. W. B. Lowe, the President of the G. F. W. C., to be present at the Convention.

There seems to be a great deal of business necessary to the perfecting of the organization of the Federation, in consequence of which the business sessions of the body of clever women will be most interesting.

The Keystone, as their official organ, looks forward with many pleasant anticipations to meeting in its own home the enthusiastic women who have done so much towards promoting its life and success.

The complete program of the Convention, with all its social features, will be printed in the April Keystone.

THE Western Club Woman" offers three prizes for the three best sets of rules by which a wife may hope to achieve domestic felicity. South Carolina club women should certainly carry off two of the three prizes.

The Keystone will be glad to give any particulars in regard to the contest.

MRS. Lucretia Wilard Treat, of Grand Rapids, Mich., has been on a visit to our city, by invitation of the South Carolina Kindergarten Association, to address the public upon "The 20th Century Child and his Needs." We had the pleasure both of hearing Mrs. Treat's address, and of meeting her socially.

Mrs. Treat is one of the most prominent Kindergartners of the United States. Her address was delivered with quiet force and dignity; her words were true, logical, and consequently convincing. Her claim for the child of the age was devoid of sentimental emotionalism.

With all that we can say of her as a speaker, it was the personal interview with Mrs. Treat that revealed to us the larger, broader and more powerful self-hood of the woman. That quick, comprehensive sympathy with the fellow-worker; that gift of only the truly great, not to stoop to the level of others, but to bring them up to her's; that readiness to acknowledge the right of others to individual effort and individual opinions.

These fine personal characteristics of Mrs. Treat are, without a doubt, what constitute her attractiveness and her power of holding.

The Keystone wishes Mrs. Treat success in her work, and a long life of continued usefulness.

CHARLESTON women have been enjoying this last month a course of six lectures on Applied Psychology and Self Culture, by Mr. E. H. Kranz, of Berlin, Germany. The course was a most helpful and enjoyable one, and it is to be hoped that other women in our State may enjoy the same privileges.

THE Rome Georgian has effected a consolidation with the New Era, a woman's paper published in Birmingham, Ala., and will be known in future as "The Georgian and New Era."

SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS.

"Animis opibusque parati."

This department is official and will be continued monthly. Official news and calls of Federation Committees printed here.

List of Officers.

President, Mrs. M. W. Coleman, Seneca, S. C.
 Vice-President, Mrs. T. Sumter Means, Spartanburg, S. C.
 Recording Secretary, Miss Louisa B. Poppenheim, Charleston, S. C., (31 Meeting Street.)
 Corresponding Secretary, Miss Mary Hemphill, Abbeville, S. C.
 Treasurer, Miss E. J. Roach, Rock Hill, S. C.
 Auditor, Mrs. M. P. Gridley, Greenville, S. C.

Official Notice.

At the Annual Convention in Chester, "The Keystone" was adopted as the official organ of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs. All clubs are urged to make use of this medium for giving publicity to all club news, as well as official news of the Federation.

MRS. M. W. COLEMAN,

President,

South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs.

The Vice-President of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. T. Sumter Means, has so far recovered her health as to be able to go to Florida for the remaining winter months. She and Dr. Means are now at Evinston, Florida.

All Federated Clubs are urged to elect their delegates to the Second Annual Convention of the S. C. Federation of Women's Clubs as soon as possible. The names of these delegates should be forwarded at once to Miss Mary B. Poppenheim, Chairman of the Credential Committee, so as to facilitate the work of the Charleston committees.

All delegates will be entertained in the homes of the club women of Charleston.

MARY B. POPPENHEIM.

Chairman Credential Committee.

Colonial Dames.

IN January, 1897, the Board of Managers of the South Carolina Society of the Colonial Dames decided to offer a prize of \$20 for an essay on a Colonial subject, to the graduates and corps of assistant teachers of the Memminger School.

The Society approved most heartily of this, and they decided to continue it yearly.

The prize in June, '97, was awarded to Miss Eliza Melli-champ, six essays being submitted. Subject: "The Wars between this Colony and the Spaniards in Florida, from the earliest settlement to 1745."

In '98 Miss Susie Chisolm received the prize. Subject: "The Indian Wars and troubles in Carolina from its settlement to the Revolution."

In '99 the prize was won by Miss Seabrook. Subject: "Sir Nathaniel Johnston."

For 1900 the subject is "Colonial Literature." To be awarded in June, 1900.

The Keystone takes great pleasure in printing the prize winning essay for 1899—"Sir Nathaniel Johnston."

Sir Nathaniel Johnston.

SIR NATHANIEL JOHNSTON created Governor of North and South Carolina under the Lords Proprietors in the year 1702, was a man of undaunted courage, unbounded energy, and possessed an intellect of rare power. This gentleman was altogether the person of highest position who had yet come into the province, and having not only been bred a soldier from youth, but also having been a Member of Parliament, he was esteemed well qualified for the trust.

He was a faithful follower of the Stuarts, and at the time of the abdication of King James II, was Governor of the Leeward Islands; refusing to take the oaths to William and Mary, he had been removed from his position, and had come to Carolina, where he devoted himself to the development of industries, especially to the making of silk on his plantation, known as Silk Hope, situated a few miles from Charleston, on a branch of the Cooper River.

He also attempted the culture of grapes, and is said to have succeeded in making wine in small quantities, while he made many trials of the several kinds of rice, and greatly encouraged the planters in the cultivation of this and other agricultural products. These enterprises, and his military education, gave him extensive popularity, and induced the Proprietors to offer him the government of the province; but it being suspected that he was no friend of the Revolution, Queen Anne's approbation (she having been crowned a few months previous) could not be obtained, except on the following terms: "That he qualify himself for the office in such manner as the laws of England required; that he give security for his observing the laws of trade and navigation, and obey such instructions as should be sent out from time to time by her Majesty."

With respect to his own conduct in the government of the colony, he had instructions from the Proprietors—"To follow such rules as had been given to former governors in the fundamental constitutions and temporary laws entered upon record, and to be guided by the same as far as in his judgment he might think fit and expedient."

He was also to take special care that the Indians be not abused or insulted, and to study the best methods possible of civilizing them, and creating a firm friendship with them, in order to protect the colonies against the Spaniards in the neighborhood; he was to transmit to England copies of all laws passed, accounts of all lands sold, rents paid annually, and the like. The colonists at the time were in a deplorable condition, with respect to all religious matters. The first emigrants from England retained for a time some sense of religion, but their children, born in a wilderness, were destined finally to become void of that religious sense, and the Proprietors were either unable to furnish them with the proper means of instruction, or else were unwilling to bear the expense of such, having as yet received little recompense for the past charges of the settlement. The emigrants, whether from England, Holland or France, were much divided in the private opinions with respect to the various modes of religious worship, and for this reason all the previous governors had judiciously avoided meddling in a matter which must finally occasion confusion and uneasiness among the settlers; nevertheless, the establishment of the Church of England was the chief object held in view by the Proprietors, and it was the work of Governor Johnston to procure the legal establishment of that Church.

Now came the troublous times of Governor Johnston's

administration; yellow fever which had first visited Charleston in 1699, again now made its appearance in 1706, and was raging in this town, when news was received that an expedition, for the invasion of this place, was being organized at Havana.

The war between Great Britain and France and Spain was now raging in Europe. The Spaniards pretended a claim to Carolina, on a foot of prior discovery, considering it as a part of Florida, and now determined, by force of arms, to assert their right.

M. le Feboure, captain of a French frigate, encouraged and assisted by the Spanish Governor of their island, had already set sail for Charleston. Sir Nathaniel Johnston, as a military commander, was well qualified for the great duties which lay before him; no sooner had he received the intelligence of the designs of his enemies, than he set all hands to work in fortifying the colony against the invaders. A small triangular fort, called Fort Johnston, was erected on the east end of James Island, mounted with several great guns. (The name is still retained.) Trenches were cast up at White Point (now the Charleston Battery), and a storehouse was prepared, containing ammunition in large quantities, to be ready for any emergency. A guard was stationed on Sullivan's Island, with orders to kindle a number of fires opposite to the town, equal in numbers to the ships they might spy on the coast. A Dutch privateer, formerly belonging to New York, by order of the Governor of Carolina, had been refitted at Charleston for cruising on the coast. Captain Stool, the commander, after being out a few days, returned, and reported having been engaged with a French sloop, and upon seeing four ships more advancing to her assistance, he thought proper to sail to Charleston, after narrowly escaping the hand of the enemy. Scarcely had he delivered the news, when five separate smokes appeared on Sullivan's Island, as a signal, reporting the number of ships observed on the coast. Sir Nathaniel Johnston, being at that time at his plantation, Silk Hope, Lieutenant-Colonel William Rhett, commanding officer of the militia, immediately ordered the drums to beat, the whole inhabitants to be put under arms. A messenger was despatched to the Governor, while letters were sent to all captains of the militia throughout the country to fire the alarm guns, raise their companies, and march to the immediate assistance of the town. In the evening the enemies' vessels came the length of Charleston bar, but fearing the intricacy of the passage, hovered on the coast all night, within sight of land; early the next morning the watchmen stationed on Sullivan's Island, observed them manning their boats as if intending to land on James Island, but fortunately they came to anchor, and employed their boats all day in sounding the bar, which delay was of great service to the Carolinians, as it afforded time for the militia in the country to march to town. The same day the Governor came to Charleston, and found the inhabitants in great consternation, but the presence of that self-possessed and courageous man, inspired them with fresh confidence and calm resolution. The whole force of the province, with the Governor at their head, was now collected together in one place. The enemy observing them employed in making all possible preparations for resistance, sent up a flag of truce, summoning the Governor to surrender.

Governor Johnston, after being informed by the French admiral's officer, that a surrender of the town and country was demanded, and that his orders allowed him no more than one hour for an answer, he replied: "There is no occasion for one minute to answer that question," and also told the officer "that he held the town and country for the Queen of Eng-

land; that he could depend on his own men, who would sooner die, than surrender themselves prisoners of war. That he was resolved to defend the country to the last drop of his blood against the boldest invader; he might go when he pleased and acquaint Mons. le Feboure with his resolution."

The day following, a party of the enemy went ashore, and on James Island burnt the houses on the river side; while other detachments burnt vessels nearby, and set fire to storehouses. Sir Nathaniel Johnston now doubled his diligence for the defence of the town. A company, together with a small party of Indians, were despatched to James Island immediately, and shortly after their arrival, the Indians, over whom all control was lost, drove, with their usual impetuosity, the invaders to their boats; having now weakened the force of the enemy on land, the Carolinians determined to try their fortune by sea. The French "perceiving a fleet of only six small ships standing towards them, in great haste weighed anchor and set sail over the bar. Shortly after, however, advice was brought that a ship was seen in the bay, and that a large number of armed men had landed from her. A large land force, also one by sea, were ordered to surprise them, and shortly after a few volleys they gave way, and retreated to their ship, which struck out, without firing a single gun. The next day the prize and about ninety prisoners landed safely in Charleston.

Out of eight hundred men who came against this little colony, near three hundred were killed and taken prisoners, while the loss sustained by the provincial militia was incredibly small. The Governor, a man of approved courage, publicly thanked his men for their courageous spirit in repelling the invaders; and soon after received himself the following letter from the Proprietors:

"We heartily congratulate you on your great and happy success against the French and Spaniards; and for your eminent courage and conduct in the defence and preservation of our province, we return you our thanks, and assure you, that we shall always retain a just sense of your merit, and will take all opportunities to reward your signal services."

The Daughters of the American Revolution.

NO body of women in America are doing more to create a national sentiment than the Daughters of the American Revolution. By the very nature of their organization, they are thrown together in the closest association, and from every part of the country one hears of the noble work they are accomplishing.

America, in comparison with the nations of Europe, is only beginning to make history, but with men who can act, and women who can admire, revere and remember the noble deeds of sons and sires, the possibilities of her position among the nations of the earth are unlimited.

The Quaker City Chapter of the D. A. R., Philadelphia, begins the New Year with a membership of 126, and a balance of \$200 in its treasury.

Mrs. Daniel Manning, President of the D. A. R., will be one of the members of the Board of Sixteen American Commissioners at the Paris Exposition.

Mrs. George W. Kendrick, the Regent of the Quaker City Chapter of the D. A. R., is trying to arouse interest in the project to convert Washington's headquarters and the historic points around Valley Forge into a State Park. \$35,000 has already been appropriated by the State of Pennsylvania, but \$60,000 more is needed to complete the work.

SOUTH CAROLINA AUDUBON SOCIETY.

This department is official and will be continued monthly.
Official news printed here.

List of Officers.

President—Miss Christie H. Poppenheim, Charleston, S. C.
First Vice-President—Dr. Robert A. Wilson, Charleston, S. C.
Second Vice-President—Miss Kate Bachman, Charleston, S. C.
Secretary—Miss Sarah A. Smyth, Charleston, S. C.
Treasurer—Miss May C. Townsend, Edisto Island, S. C.

Official Notice.

AT the first regular meeting of the South Carolina Society, January 4th, 1900, The Keystone was adopted as the official organ of the Society. All members are urged to make use of this medium, as all the official notices will be contained in it.

CHRISTIE H. POPPENHEIM,
President,
South Carolina Audubon Society.

THE first annual meeting of the South Carolina Audubon Society was held February 14th. There was a large and enthusiastic attendance. After a few words of welcome by the President, the Society was entertained by a most interesting talk on birds by Dr. Robert Wilson.

Dr. Wilson said that he had no systematic discourse prepared, but would follow the example of the bee-martin—the tyrant fly catcher—just perch on a fence rail and flit about at random, where ever he chanced to be attracted by a good fat bee. His perch would be the proposed work of the Audubons. He then told of the cruelties practised in killing birds for their plumes, of the wholesale slaughter of egrets on their nests, which are built in colonies, involving the death of the young broods; of the threatened extermination of the turkey buzzard to obtain the "eagle feathers" now so fashionable, for the "Charleston Eagle" is the bird that supplies most of them. The eagle, he said, was a great fraud, claiming to gaze at the sun with his "eagle eye," when really he is looking through smoked glass, having a convenient membrane which he draws over his eye, and the trick is done. But he has his uses, and should not be exterminated in the persons of the buzzards. He illustrated the ease with which species may be extinguished by telling how, only thirty years ago, the buffalo roamed in countless thousands over the western plains.

To-day there is probably not a living specimen on the continent outside of a few protected parks. He exploded the claim that the bee-bird eats only drones. The only reason why he eats more drones than workers, is because the former are bigger and fatter, and too lazy to get out of his way. The speaker then explained the connection between all natural phenomena, and showed how the increase in "old maids" was said to have saved the cultivation of clover in Australia. Clover must be fertilized by the bumble-bee carrying the pollen. The bee-birds devoured the bees, and clover could not be cultivated to feed the cattle; but the old maids increased, and each of them petted cats; the cats

caught the birds, the clover got more bee-service, and the cattle grew fat and multiplied. He told many stories of bird life from his own observation, illustrating the habits and intelligence of birds. One of these was of an oriole, whose nest was hung hammock-like from the switches of a willow. The weight of the young birds threatened to break the supports. The old bird secured some cotton string, and fastened "guy-ropes" to the lines, and then tied the twigs together under the nest. He gave reasons for believing that nearly all birds pair for life, separating into flocks of different sexes after the broods are reared, but coming together the next spring in the same old home-nest, even after their long migrations. He told of the heartless conduct of a robin, which, after the nest was built, abandoned his mate, because a boy had broken her leg with a stone, and took a new one, and how the crippled wife made life miserable to her rival for several days, and finally drove her away. The misfortunes of a pair of wrens were described, twenty-seven eggs being laid before a brood was reared. The next season the couple returned, and built again in their box; but the female was exhausted, and laid no eggs, and at last disappeared. The male bird then found a new mate, who pulled the nest to pieces and rebuilt it after her own ideas of housekeeping, rearing two full broods.

Dr. Wilson commended the purposes of the Society, and urged them to prosecute their work with zeal, until the unnatural craze for wearing dead song birds and buzzard's feathers should be extinguished.

Reminiscences of Auld Lang Syne.

(Written for The Keystone by E. H.)

WALKING down Meeting Street, towards the Battery, as one approaches Tradd Street, the eye is caught by the arcade of the ancient Horry mansion, doubtless a reminder of their ancestral home in sunny France, and memory unrolls the historic part of our city, like a panorama, as the dwellings of other Colonial worthies pass before our view.

Tradd Street, once the resort of wealth and fashion, at its eastern side, was named to perpetuate the memory of Robert Tradd, the first male child born in Charleston. The tablet to him, erected in the White Meeting House, or Circular Church of the Congregationalists, was left hanging on its walls when destroyed during the great fire of 1861.

At the corner of Tradd Street and Bedon's Alley stood the Carolina Coffee House, where the "Charleston Assemblies" were held, the guests being invited to the Ball at the primitive hour of seven, as set forth by a quaint, time-stained card of 1812. Of the nine managers, most of the names have become extinct here. Mr. A. S. Willington, a former editor of the "Courier," alone being familiar to the writer's generation.

At the south-east corner of Tradd and Meeting Streets, directly opposite to the Scotch Presbyterian Church, stands the old home of Hon. Henry William DeSaussure, until he was made Chancellor of South Carolina; then removing to Columbia, 1809, where he remained till ill health compelled him to resign his duties.

When a youth of 17 he had borne arms in defence of his native State, during its invasion by Prevost, and on the surrender of Charleston was paroled, but afterwards summoned to the guard house, with many others, as they refused to acknowledge themselves British subjects; arrested, and marched on board the prison ships in the harbor; after two

months detention and suffering during the hottest season of the year, they were released, and on a general exchange of prisoners, he was sent to Philadelphia, where he was joined by his father, who had been one of the exiles to St. Augustine for nearly a year.

In 1794, appointed Director of the United States Mint, by President Washington, who was very desirous of gold coinage, until then found impossible by the venerable Rittenhouse, his predecessor, by great diligence in overcoming obstacles, in six weeks, he carried to him a handful of gold eagles.

Chancellor DeSaussure's eldest daughter born and married in that house, reached the great age of 92, and many of these reminiscences are culled from her memories of the long ago. When a mere girl of 12 or 13, she was taken to the St. Cecilia concerts, given by a band of white men, whose leader had been a Prussian musician, who concealed himself when the British troops were compelled to evacuate the city. These concerts were given from 7 to 9, then colored musicians took their place, for the dance that followed, till midnight sounded.

A square lower down Meeting Street, is the home of Governor Gibbes' grandson and namesake, now owned by Mrs. James Conner. The semi-circular fronts are modern additions to the square Colonial façade. Mr. Gibbes was, with his large household, at his country seat on the Stono, when the British took the city and the men allowed to loot freely.

One had ransacked the house for valuables, and made a bonfire in the front yard, in which he threw discarded articles. As he tore off the gold clasps and corners of the huge Family Bible, and cast it on the blaze, an English woman passing by, saw the act, and rushing through the open gate, snatched the book from destruction, exclaiming: "How dare you commit such sacrilege?" Finding the Bible contained the family record, for nearly two centuries, the fly leaves only being scorched at the edges, she carried it off, and back to England, where she soon afterward returned. At her death she left it by will to a friend, who was to keep it till an American should be found, who would, in turn, transmit it to a member of the family. In course of many years, these conditions were fulfilled, and it now rests securely in a modern safe, with other papers of value.

Mr. Gibbes' eldest daughter was the little "Heroine of the Stono," who rescued the baby boy, John Fenwick, when the family were compelled to leave their home, taken possession of by the British three days before, and attacked by the American forces. In the darkness, rain, and general alarm, firing having begun, the eighteen months old child was not missed till the negro quarters were reached, and Mr. Gibbes, a cripple from gout, compelled to rest. Neither entreaty nor offers of payment availed to persuade any of the terrified negroes to return; the twelve years old young girl volunteered to seek him, and amidst shot and shell, found her way back, besought the sentinel to allow her to enter, and found the child fast asleep in an upper room. He grew up, and fought the British in 1812. In his old age he was vividly remembered by a little girl, at a house where he frequently visited, by a great sabre scar from brow to chin.

The young heroine married Major Alexander Garden, A. D. C. to General Nathaniel Greene, whose anecdotes of the American Revolution are standard authority. Bereft of wife and many children, in his later years, his city home was the small recessed house in Meeting Street, nearly opposite Water, where he was in close proximity to his intimate friends, Mr. H. A. DeSaussure and Judge Huger, whose descendants still own the latter's dwelling.

When the jovial old gentleman passed away, these devoted friends accompanied his remains to his resting place in the Gibbes family cemetery, on John's Island, on their plantation, and at midnight laid beside the wife, gone so long before; the tides and small boats of earlier days necessitating such an hour.

The Colonial mansion, with its fine grounds, now owned by Mr. George W. Williams, Jr., was built and occupied by John Edwards, the wealthy patriotic merchant, who, coming from England before he was of age, adopted Carolina as his home, and literally cast in his fortunes with her's. When Charleston surrendered to the British, Admiral Arbuthnot took possession of the house, selecting the best rooms for his occupancy and repeatedly urged John Edwards to return to the allegiance to England. He answered: "I have a wife and ten children, and I am willing to give up myself, my fortune, and them, for the cause of America."

Exiled to St. Augustine, with sixty-seven others, among the most prominent citizens, at the end of a year they were sent to Philadelphia, while their families were ordered to leave Charleston and join them. Before his family arrived he was stricken with apoplexy, dying three weeks after he had reached the port.

Few even of the elders of our time remember that the eastern end of White Point Garden was once enclosed by private dwellings, which were purchased and pulled down by the City Council at the suggestion and urgent persuasion of Mr. James G. Holmes, for so many years Cashier of the Bank of the State of South Carolina, who was also one of the prime promoters of the South Carolina Railroad. He had a long platform constructed on the empty lot, corner of Wentworth and Smith Streets, since occupied by Mr. Memminger's residence, on which a car was run by an endless chain, to show the possibilities of the budding enterprise. When White Point Garden was thus cut off from the water view, a large salt pond stood at the junction of East and South Bay, where the grandfathers of the rising generation, as lads, waded knee-deep, sailing their mimic fleets.

General Federation News.

THE Milwaukee Biennial will not be lacking in social features.

The delegates who will be entertained at this Convention will be Presidents of State Federations, Chairmen of State Correspondence, and Speakers.

Other delegates will be provided with special rates at the hotels and boarding houses of Milwaukee.

The Year Book for 1899-1900 shows 100 clubs in the Maine Federation, with a membership of 4,500.

The Tennessee State Federation was formed in 1896, at Knoxville, Tennessee.

Texas has a flourishing State Federation, and is working with her usual vigor and enthusiasm.

The Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs held its fifth annual Convention at Denver, on October 25th, 1899.

The Oregon State Federation was organized in October, 1899. Its efforts will be principally in the direction of education and libraries.

On December 29th, 1899, twelve women's clubs of Louisiana organized a Louisiana Federation of Women's Clubs, at Shreveport, La.

Club Column.

MANAGER, MISS LOUISA B. POPPENHEIM, CHARLESTON, S. C.

All Clubs in the State are invited to send notes to this department which will be continued monthly.

Busy Club Women Helped.

THE KEYSTONE is prepared to furnish programs and outlines of study for clubs. For further particulars, apply to the manager of this column.

Charleston.

IT is a pleasure to chronicle such a delightful event as the first literary meeting of the City Union of Woman's Clubs of Charleston.

Charleston club women have the same interests to-day as a year ago, with this addition: they are now conscious of their numbers, and are finding satisfaction in the thought; they see new channels of interest and work opening out before them into which they are eager to enter, and this is the result of the City Union of Clubs, organized by the Century Club, May 5th, 1899, and meeting at stated intervals for the transaction of business.

The Constitution of the "City Union" arranges for one mid-winter meeting, from which all business shall be excluded, and to which each club shall contribute in literary or musical lines for the edification of all.

Through the kindness of the Memminger Alumnae Association, the "City Union" was able to hold its literary meeting in their club room, the Unitarian Parish Hall, Archdale Street, on Friday, February 9th, at 4.30 P. M.

A goodly number was present, and listened appreciatively to the President, Miss Louisa B. Poppenheim, who gave in a few words the purpose of the meeting.

The broad-mindedness of the "City Union" was shown by the presence on the platform of two gentlemen.

Mr. W. K. Tate, member of the local. Ex. Comm. of the National Educational Association, spoke in reference to the coming of the N. E. A. in July, asking for the co-operation of the City Union on this occasion.

Mr. Kranz spoke in the cause of Psychology and Mental Culture, a subject always sure to be of interest to earnest women.

The program, consisting of papers and a reading, bright and sparkling with wit and wisdom, and with such a delightful musical setting, was as follows:

Paper—"The Puritan Style of Colonial Woman," by Miss R. M. Bryan, of Century Club.

Vocal Solo, by Miss Corinne Nathan, contributed by Memminger Alumnae Association.

Paper—"American Woman of To-day," by Mrs. Julius Visanska, of C. F. S. Alumnae Association. Mrs. Visanska is also a member of the Psychology and Child Study Club, and the S. C. Kindergarten Association.

Vocal Solo, by Miss Sophie Brown, of the S. C. Kindergarten Association.

Reading, by Miss Claudia Tucker; contributed by the S. C. Kindergarten Association.

Chorus, by the Memminger Alumnae Musical Club.

The "Puritan Type of Colonial Woman," and the "Woman

of To-day," were brought out in clear, strong lights, and every woman present must have felt a deepening of the desire to live up to the inheritance of the past, as well as to the opportunities of the present, realizing that though conditions may change, the duty of every true woman is to be in touch with the highest and best in the "spirit of the times."

With this thought and with the memory of a most successful "first meeting," the City Union adjourned.

EVELYN HOLMES.

Laurens.

THE Wednesday Club" will welcome with genuine pleasure the visits of The Keystone, and in some tangible way would like to show its appreciation, in lieu of this some pleasant words may be said. It helps to nourish literature, entertains and adorns our circle, is delightful and unobtrusive. No doubt it would solace us in our troubles, but fortunately, "all goes merry as a marriage bell" notwithstanding the thorough work the club is doing. Our meeting of January sixteenth deserves more than a passing notice; the literary program was the reign of Louis XV. "France in the Colonies and the Seven Years War," was unusually interesting. The author prepared a paper covering seven years, thinking she would prevent another appointment, but the effect was to the contrary.

This was followed by "Philosophers of the Period." The wisdom shown in this paper proves conclusively, if not a philosopher, the writer so nearly approaches one, that the "distinction makes little difference." The next paper was one on "Molière." The writer showed how beautifully clear cut ideas could be condensed. Last, "but by no means least, the paper on "Current Events" proved it did not require time or French History to add halo to the author's brow.

MRS. T. FOSTER SIMPSON.

Union.

DEAR Friend—I have just finished writing some notices for a lecture to be given us by Miss Slocum, on "Pioneer Life in Idaho." This will be followed by a course on "Social Economics," which she has given in Syracuse, N. Y. Miss Slocum intends to go to Idaho again, to help build a school there.

You may not know that I spent last summer in England delightfully.

I went to attend the International Council of Women, and except two weeks in Holland, passed the rest of the time going about in England. We took up a Cathedral trail going west and north as far as Durham, and then south to London. Among the numerous social functions during the Council we went by invitation to the palace of the Lord Bishop of London. I saw the dear, venerable Queen, too! The foreign members of the Council were invited to go to Windsor Castle at a certain hour, where she would receive us in her carriage, passing slowly along a line of 200 of us; then, after she had passed, we were conducted to one of the halls of the Castle, and by her urgent request furnished excellent refreshments. The pictures give a poor idea of her; she has a bright blue eye, that seems to see everybody, and a smooth, fair face. I think of her in these days of the dreadful war, which she tried her utmost to avert, with keen sympathy.

C. POULTON.

The American Woman of To-Day.

(Paper Read before the City Union of Women's Clubs of Charleston, S. C.)

"WHEN does the 20th Century begin?" is the question of deep and solemn (?) import, which, during the past months, shared honors in the public mind with the Philippine question, and the Boer-British troubles. Finally this war of tongues and pens has ceased, while the other two of cannon, blood and musket, go relentlessly onward, and each one quietly goes ahead, finishing the 19th, or beginning the 20th Century, in accordance with his or her own opinion or belief.

However, the discussion, once so eagerly waged, has resulted in one discovery (at least so a certain newspaper informs us), namely, that the majority of those upholding the 20th Century theory, are women; while the 19th Century advocates belong to the opposite sex! Now, we are asked, to what does all this point? Are women in a greater rush to finish time than men? Are they more progressive, or is it fickleness, a desire for something new,—even a new century, which makes them so anxious to be done with a period, which has been so fraught with benefits to them?

If we but pause a moment, we shall see that this apparent desire to rush on into a new era is but the result of a certain phase of woman's training and education during the past one hundred years or more. I mean that note of warning, that word "prepare," which has been forever, and still is, sounding in her ears. Indeed, from the moment the first Anglo-Saxon woman came to the newly discovered American shores, even to the present hour, it has been for the *future* that she has thought and toiled. We have seen how the women of Colonial and Revolutionary days, all unconsciously, perhaps, trained and reared the future warriors and statesmen, the "corner stones of a nation," and were quite as surely and skilfully fitting themselves and their daughters to meet the exigencies of the new times, which were even then dawning. So, too, were the women of the South in Ante-Bellum days, (though seemingly idle and luxurious,) acquiring through the administration of their extensive households and the training of retinues of half-civilized, ignorant blacks, that marvellous strength of mind and executive ability, which, in after years, enabled them to go through those four years of awful suffering, and the still longer ones of Re-construction and poverty, unruffled and triumphant, fitting themselves uncomplainingly to the new order, and making possible, through their encouragement and teaching, that happier condition of affairs, which writers and speakers to-day delight in calling the "New South."

Thus we see how natural it is for women—thinking, earnest women—to press onward in thought to a new era, which seems to offer to them and their fellow-beings, yet wider fields of endeavor and achievement, although material conditions yet hold them Prometheus-like, bound to the rock of the Present. However, the promised land of the 20th Century is not far off, and while it may not be the lot of all, yet many will enter in and enjoy its benefits; and so, it behooves us American women of to-day, to follow in the footsteps of the mothers of the nation, and prepare ourselves to meet the new conditions which await us. What those conditions will be, we know no more or less than did the American woman one hundred years ago; but this we do know, that the intelligent reading of to-day's conditions, and the earnest endeavor to eliminate whatever may be false in the present order, and to substitute that which is good and true, will not only aid us in coming years, but the future woman as well.

And now, what of ourselves, and the problems which confront us, and how do we or they differ from the women of 1800, and the tasks which they so graciously assumed, and so successfully accomplished?

We need not speak of the difference in extent or population before us, her America and our's; nor of the marvellous scientific and mechanical discoveries and inventions, which to-day eliminate space, turn night into day, and cause far off orient and occident to clasp hands. Neither need we dwell at length upon the higher and more general education woman receives to-day. All this is too well known to require comment, and it is these very changes which cause our outlook to differ so widely from that of our predecessors. As women, as thinking beings, we, like our grandmothers, work and strive to improve the present hour, and through so doing, brighten the future. But it is in the methods we employ, that we find the contrast. And this contrast is but the result of the changed conditions in the social, educational and business world to-day.

In the educational field, our grandmother's governess has been replaced by the Kindergarten Preparatory, High School and College, and in consequence of the democracy learned in the school room, the progressive woman of the present has caused the club to replace the old time Salon, (where only the favored few were welcomed), and now, aided by kindred spirits, she works, not only for individual improvement, but for humanity's betterment as well. And it is in this club work that women's methods of endeavor differ most widely from her efforts of the past. Individual effort, however magnificent, can never be as effective as co-operative work, as the first 50 years of women's clubs in America have proven.

Like every reform, women's clubs have had their fanatics, whose extreme measures have brought forth criticisms from those "outside the pale." The ill-advised utterances of the politically inclined, have caused the outsider to believe that every woman's club tingles with the desire to grasp the ballot box, and with it, every political office within the gift of the nation.

From the twaddle of others, our opponents imagine that the old saw, "gabble, gizzle, gobble, git," fully describes a woman's meeting, and only a few of the broad-minded, tolerant ones magnanimously (?) admit, that "there may be some good about a woman's club after all."

On the other hand, many hopeful friends of club work predict that the ideal club of the future will be composed of both sexes. When this will be possible, we cannot say, but meanwhile, the woman's club, as it exists to-day, presents a vast field of work for the thoughtful American woman—the woman whose progressiveness will ever advance the interests of her sex, but whose level head will not permit her to neglect home and family, while she sets out to right the real or imaginary wrongs of a wicked world.

And just as the club idea was a new stage in the evolution of woman's development, so, in the club world, there has been a steady growth and advance to meet and solve new problems, which are forever presenting themselves. Thus, first came the literary clubs, which have done and are still doing great work for the mutual culture and benefit of their members.

Having thus taken the first step in helping themselves and each other, women next sought to aid the outsider, and incidentally, the future citizen. This desire gave rise to philanthropic clubs, which, through Free Kindergartens, Day Nurseries, Reading Rooms and Public Playgrounds, have saved thousands of neglected children from the evil influences

of the street, while the sick, aged and fallen have been cared for in Asylums, Homes, Hospitals and Refuges. All this is glorious, and the American woman can to-day, feel a glow of honest pride, when she realizes what a power for good she can become, through the medium of a liberally organized and well conducted club. But there is one cause, in which, as yet, women's clubs have done but little, and in which they should feel in duty bound to exert their strongest influence. It is in advancing the interests of the bread-winners of their own sex. Our writers and platform orators delight in telling us how the American woman fills positions of honor and trust all over our broad land; how everywhere her services are sought, and how well she fulfills her duties, in whatever sphere she may be placed. But they do not tell us how these same teachers, confidential clerks, stenographers, book-keepers and sales-women receive in return, a mere pittance, which a man employé would not consider. And this is where the woman's clubs should come to the rescue, and aid our women in demanding equal pay, and equal respect, for equal work.

Let the women stand shoulder to shoulder in this crusade, and earnestly demand this right, for it will be their's in time!

Women have never yet worked earnestly, unitedly, for a worthy object, without success, and they never will. The colleges, professions and vocations, once closed to us, gladly welcome us now. If we women but show that we respect and value the work of our sisters, as highly as men do their's, the world will think as much of it as we do, and reward it in proportion.

We club women of South Carolina should feel especially encouraged to thus urge the rightful claims of our sister-women. We have seen but recently how our Legislature, by a good majority, voted to raise the salary of the State Librarian, who, because she is a woman, had received up to the present, but little more than half the pay of her male predecessor. The men of South Carolina have ever been fearless champions of the Right, and where the interests of their sisters are concerned, have ever proved themselves heroes, so we can hope for much, and fear but little in entering upon this new crusade, for, if conducted with proper enthusiasm, it will be met, we are sure, in the right spirit.

This may seem a very materialistic campaign in which to have our club women engage, but the ultimate aim and object of it will be quite otherwise.

We well know, that if once relieved from material care and worry, by fair pay for honest work, our brainy woman-workers will be enabled to enrich the world by the expenditure of time and thought, now, alas! spent on many heart-breaking, sordid tasks to make existence possible.

Would not this reward compensate us for our labors? Would not the "New Crusade" thus be amply justified?

In the days when America was young, her twelve sister States oft listened for the bugle call of progress and reform to sound from the shores of Carolina, and never listened in vain. Through a generation of war, of pestilence and untold suffering, those clarion notes have been stilled, but never quite forgotten. Amid new-born prosperity and hope, we hear them once more; the tender note growing to a grander chorus, for amid the answering voices we hear the brave woman's gentler tones mingled with those of our courageous men! Once again the eyes of the nation are turning Southward, and, as in the past, they will find that for which they seek! We, daughters of the South, as well as our brothers, realize how crowded is the present hour with vast opportunities and grave responsibilities. Each one of us, whose heart throbs responsive to the cause of country and of

womanhood, should proudly assume the task to improve the one, and faithfully discharge the other. We know not when or where, if ever, the "New Utopia" will exist, nor when will arise the ideal race of men and women long sung and dreamed of by poet and by seer, but when that long-heralded period and people do appear, let us trust that in looking backward, to the ages gone before, the men and women of the future may count among the chief benefactors of an aspiring, though less perfect past, she, whom it should be our hope and pride to see honored and beloved by all ages, times and peoples—The American Woman of To-Day!

—SARAH B. VISANSKA.

Daughters of the Confederacy.

Charleston Chapter.

THE Charleston Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, desiring to awaken in the children of this generation an interest in the history of the "Lost Cause," so dear to their parents, that they be willing to themselves search for the truth thereof, resolved to offer a prize to the children of the public schools, for the best essay covering 1861-1865, the period of the war for Southern Independence. A committee was appointed to report how this best could be accomplished. Investigation developed that the children of the seventh, or highest classes of the Crafts, Courtenay and Bennett Schools studied Confederate History, and were the only ones who did. By offering a prize here, we reached those who beyond the Peabody Medal, had no other prize; thus we make a healthy competition between these schools, and open the lists to both girls and boys of the same average ages.

Application was made to the Commissioners of City Public Schools to be allowed to offer a yearly prize of \$10 in gold, to be competed for by these classes, on the following terms: The subject of the essay to be yearly selected by the Charleston Chapter. For this year it is: "The causes which led to the Secession of South Carolina." Not less than three papers are to be submitted each year, that there may be a sufficient number from which to draw comparison. These papers to be in the hands of the committee, not later than May 1st. The award to be made each year on June 3rd, the birthday of President Davis. These terms were most courteously accepted by the Board of Public School Commissioners, who are most heartily in sympathy with the movement.

Martha B. Washington,
Louisa McC. Smythe,
Clelia P. McGowan,
Lee C. Harby,
Mary B. Poppenheim,
Virginia Leigh Porcher,
L. McC. Cheves,

Committee.

THE KEYSTONE—the official organ of the South Carolina Federation, has been increased in size, and is a very attractive magazine. State Federations generally are awakening to the importance of having a recognized mouthpiece. Now, if there was only some way of showing individual club woman their responsibility and making them realize that it is part of their obligation to support their organ,—["The Western Club Woman."]

March.

JANUARY, with its cold wintry air, its short days, its minimum of sunshine, has gone, and February, the quiescent, no longer holds Nature in enchanted sleep; to these has succeeded March, the boisterous, the stirring, life-inspiring March. Ah! this is why we love it, for the inspiration it brings. In the later Spring months there is a fuller blooming of flowers; in summer the ripening of grain and luscious fruits; in autumn the gathering of harvests; but far beyond the enjoyment of any of these is the sense of awakening, of growth, we have suggested in windy March.

To watch the skies at sunset on one of these days is an intense delight; the wind is having it all his own way among the great soft-tinted clouds, tossing them hither and thither, now occasionally showing patches of blue, and then, as though jealous of our gaze, hiding them behind rose and violet-flushed curtains.

Far off towards the north, the coloring fades into gray, as though, in that region, there were yet a memory of winter's storms. The sun at last sinks to rest in the wind-swept sky, "a certain moment cuts the day off, calls the glory from the gray"—and the morrow? 'Twill be another day of glorious growing.

Have you ever thrown yourself down upon a grass-grown field, put your ear close to the earth, and listened to the hum of insect life among the plant stalks? We had never dreamed there could be such a stir, and now in this first month of Spring, were our senses attuned more delicately, could we not hear another commotion?

'Tis the plants, the thousands of little green stems pushing aside the earth to take their first peep of daylight.

"In March," the needle of my being sets towards the country," like the little fresh shoots, I, too, must be out of doors, and drink rich draughts of sunshine.

"But," some one says, "it is difficult and disagreeable to walk with the wind wrapping his long arms about us in such boisterous manner."

What do I care for his furious embrace? What does it matter if my hat is carried off a dozen times a day? Perhaps some foggy thoughts may be blown from my brain at the same time.

In the city it may be walking is unpleasant, where the wind gathers great clouds of dust to greet the pedestrian at every street corner.

But let's away to the woods! Here, instead of dust clouds, the wind comes laden with fragrance of violets, with the soft, damp, delicious, earthy smell of tiny ferns and fresh-springing mosses.

Would we prevent this subtle influence of Spring from possessing and becoming a part of our very being, awakening fresh desires and new energies?

Surely human passivity is inexcusable amidst so suggestive a progress of Nature!

In the Spring there's quiet growing of new life 'mongst plants and flowers,
And the Spring lends inspiration to this higher life of ours.
In the Spring there cometh blossoms that shall bear fruit later on,
In the coming march of ages when this season's past and gone.

—J. D. R.

✠ The King's Daughters. ✠

Members of the South Carolina Branch of the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons—GREETING:

WITH the opening of the century our Order steps forth into a new epoch. Begun in a drawing room, but fourteen years ago, it closes the old century with hundreds of thousands of members. The tiny badge is worn by Christian men and women in every part of the globe. Its usefulness is beyond compute; first, as a stimulation to Christian character and life; and second, as a medium for the exercise of Christian activities, doing many great things, but too often the minor things that are as the sands of the seashore, too often neglected to be trodden under foot.

The very growth of the work during the years, has naturally caused a corresponding growth in the expense of carrying it on. To meet this expense, our Council has only the little profit it can make in the sale of supplies, and the one-half of the membership fee of ten cents, as they donate the other half, except in a few instances, to the work in the different States. The very great carelessness on the part of the great majority of the members of the Order in paying this fee, which is a moral obligation upon every one of us, is shown by the fact that during the year just closing, the Council received from this source only \$3,377.74. This has so limited their resources, that these women who have the interest of the Order most at heart, are bearing great and unnecessary burdens.

Now, because we are glad we have such a grand medium for the advancement of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, and because we have such joy in service, we, the special committee, representing the South Carolina Branch, following the lead of the Province of Canada, desire to present the Central Council a thank offering of money for the maintenance and support of the Order. This offering will be called the Twentieth Century Thank Offering, and it is to be given as freely and gladly as we have received generously of the great mercies and blessings from the King in whose Name we are organized.

There are over 500 registered members of the Order in our State, and we feel justified in our hope that the thank offering they will make will be so large as to place our State very near the top of the list when the Honor Roll of the States is published.

We earnestly desire your hearty co-operation and prayers, that South Carolina may substantially prove the loyalty and interest its Branch has ever professed. Let the responses be prompt and generous, remembering that while all the work undertaken by our Circles is desirable and worthy, that which pertains to our Order should take precedence.

Yours "I. H. N."

Mrs. C. G. Matthews.

Miss Martha B. Washington.

Miss Lula Lee.

Mrs. James Conner.

Mrs. G. W. Witte.

Mrs. J. P. K. Bryan.

Mrs. W. W. Simons.

Mrs. W. W. Stanford.

Miss G. E. M. Fowler.

All individual and Circle contributions received by Miss Lula Lee, 178 Ashley Avenue.

Two Victims of Circumstance.

THE slanting rays of a tropical setting sun shone over tower and hills in far Manilla; behind the mists the gold and red of the sinking sun still shone with unabated beauty; a soft breeze rising from the sea tempered the heat of what had been a long tropical day; on the outskirts of the city the camp of the Americans lay in the declining sun. Two young men, with their pipes, were lying extended upon the fragrant grass, smoking; the black hair and dark eyes of the one, told of the Southerner from far Louisiana; the blue eyes and light, curling locks of the other, as certainly proclaimed him a native of New England. Their dress was that of privates in the United States Army. Looking across the blue expanse of water, towards that far distant land of western civilization, they remained musing, perhaps of home.

The modest dress did not conceal the noble form, the fine physique, both men of education they were in the army as patriots, and also through a love of adventure.

The dark haired man raising himself dreamily from his recumbent position, addressed his companion.

"Harry, I want you to tell me what became of John O'Reilly? He was one of the brightest and gayest of spirits, in our boyish days, but I lost sight of him when he went to Fort Laramie; once I heard that he had come out with your troop to Manilla."

He was a brave and gallant fellow, and beloved for his noble generosity of character, as well as admired for his handsome face and figure. "He was the star cadet of '97 at West Point."

He, who had been addressed as Harry, drew his pipe from his mouth, raised his eyes to his companion, and said: "Yes, I can tell you about your old chum, but as the story tellers say, I must go back a little, and begin at the beginning."

Contrary to the wishes and desires of my parents, I enlisted in the army in 1898. I had good commercial prospects; my father, as you know, was a rich man; he had the means to advance me for any enterprise I might undertake, and soon after my graduation at Yale, he had offered me a position in the bank, of which he was President. Or the alternative, if I preferred to study a profession, of a handsome allowance with which to support myself while I continued my studies. Our handsome home on Madison Avenue was always filled with visitors. The reputation of my mother's fine dinners, and my beautiful sister's charming manners, were enough to make us sought after by the "400." But no, I would not rest at home, the roaming spirit had taken possession of me; my sweetheart, pretty Alicia Gould, had played me false. From boyhood she had been my bright particular star; together we had played as children, our parents being members of the same church; we had sat in the same Sunday School, and listened to the same instructions. During the annual summer outings, we had frequented the same places, and about the same period our respective fathers had purchased beautiful homes at that queen of American seaside resorts, stately Newport.

As children, we had waded on the beach together, and dabbled our bare feet in the rising waters. Later we belonged to the same dancing class, and in the "German" we were always partners; during my college career my long absences from the city extending over several months, caused us to meet less frequently, but did not dampen our innocent devotion. Especially as Alicia was also sent at the age of sixteen by her ambitious parents to Vassar College, so justly celebrated for the acquirements, both of science and of general

culture of its graduates. Frequent correspondence softened the asperities of separation for us.

All promised well, when an illness soon after my graduation, brought on, the physicians said, by too close application to study, prostrated me, and when the day arrived for my family to leave for their summer home at Newport, I was not yet sufficiently recovered to go with them. For better attendance than could be given me at home in the absence of my mother, I was transferred to St. Vincent's Hospital, under the care of the good Sisters of Mercy.

My sisters gaily bid me adieu, archly promising to give me full details of Alicia's movements and flirtations. It is true no solemn pledge had passed between us, but Alicia had for some two or three years worn on her little hand a plain gold ring, purchased with my own boyish funds, zealously hoarded until they had reached the proper sum, and then proudly bestowed one Christmas Eve. I had also suspended from a black velvet ribbon and worn around my neck, and always next my heart, a tiny circlet which I had coaxed from her on the same Christmas tide.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Effect of Environment upon Character—To What Extent, or, Are We Responsible?

NOTHING, however seemingly insignificant, is without its influence, its weight in life, some one or other's life. This is true to very triteness, but is the influence in its results always what might naturally be expected? Environments, circumstances most emphatically shape our material life, and as no part of life is distinct from all other, as "no man liveth to himself," so no one of the different natures of an individual exists to and for itself; so that decidedly, even if indirectly, do our environments effect us, and often shape our thoughts which lead or direct us into action. But to say that environment or circumstances make us, or our equivalent, character, emphatically no.

Pitiful creatures indeed, would some of us be, were we no better than our environments! Take what in common parlance is called "a self-made man," one good, as well as great; in many instances, if not in all, he has risen step by step from circumstances, surrounded by environments which, in their very nature, would tend to degrade, to discourage, to grind down, and yet his nature, "his majesty himself," has battled and overcome them all, and risen therefrom, scarred perhaps, but stainless in the love and living of truth, and right, and purity; strong through fighting, not because of the need to fight. Many of his neighbors mayhap, in the old days, his companions or associates, have simply lived up to their environments, which were his, some even falling below them. He, alone of them all, has overcome, and lived true life, despite them.

Character, then, while influenced to a certain extent by environment and circumstances, cannot be regarded as their result. Back of character we find our nature, our spirit, our ego, which in the abstract, as certainly as in its origin, was perfect. Character is complex always, nature is simple.

Character is something we build, nature or spirit a gift, a germ of right, and truth, and beauty implanted within us at our first conception. In building character, many thoughts, words, deeds, with and in our daily surroundings, not forgetting that mighty power, inheritance, or heredity, all are influences for or against us!

How far, then, are we responsible for this building, character?

You'll find the same idea very beautifully expressed in Longfellow's "Builders." "All are Architects of Fate." A good builder looks to his foundation, but primarily, to that upon which his foundation is to rest. So we look to our nature, that which we have not made ourselves, and yet which is within us, this gift, and in proportion as we respond or turn away therefrom, we rise or fall. Therein is our responsibility, terribly individual and commensurate with the size of the gift. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

Who is it that says, "There is a Divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them as we will?"

—IVAN SWITHIN.

Book Reviews.

OUR thanks are due Messrs. Small, Maynard & Co., for two more of those handy "Beacon Biographies"—"John Brown," by Joseph E. Chamberlin, and "Frederick Douglass," by Charles W. Chestnut. The first is a clear, unprejudiced statement of the life and doings of this wild, eccentric character, told in a plain, simple way. The life of Douglass gives an entirely partisan view of the negro orator. The author misrepresents the slavery questions and conditions in the South before and after the war. He tries to make Douglass a hero, but no clear-headed, right-minded man can help but prefer the theories and teachings of Booker Washington, and claim him as the proper model for the American negro.—(75 cents each. Small, Maynard & Co., Boston.)

THE KEYSTONE acknowledges the receipt of a collection of the celebrated Perry Pictures, and we wish to recommend these pictures to our subscribers. They are first-class prints, and are copies of the best works of art in all countries. These prints are of great value in our nurseries and public schools, and are within the reach of all. The Perry Magazine, published by the Perry Picture Company, appeals to all cultured people, and will certainly give much pleasure and information to art students.—(Perry Picture Company, Malden, Mass.)

"AN Introduction to the Study of English Fiction," by W. E. Simonds, is a most valuable aid to all students of English Literature, treating, as it does, of that great power, the *Novel*. This handy volume of 240 pages, not only gives the history of English Fiction from its beginning, but it contains a list of books for reference and reading, and some texts as illustrations. It is recommended by the English Departments of all our leading colleges.—(Cloth, 80 cents. D. C. Heath & Co., Boston.)

D. C. HEATH & CO. have made it possible for The Keystone to become acquainted with the Arden Shakespere. These handy little volumes are intended to present the plays in their literary aspect. Their introductions, historical data, glossary and essays on metre are ample equipment for an intellectual comprehension of the motif of each play, and are valuable to the student beginning the study of Shakespere. The text generally is based on the globe edition, and the only omissions made are those necessary in an edition provided for young students. The Arden "Twelfth Night" is to be especially recommended as one of the most satisfactory presentations of that play possible for an intelligent comprehension of its literary value. So far fourteen plays have appeared in this edition, while the others are in preparation.—(Price, cloth, 35 cents per volume. D. C. Heath & Co., Publishers, Boston.)

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